

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE	Illinois
COUNTY	Cook
FOR NP USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

**1. NAME**

COMMON NAME: Tree Studio Building, Ohio & Ontario St. Annexes

AND/OR HISTORIC NAME: same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 4 E. Ohio Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago

STATE: Illinois

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7th-Congresswoman Cardiss Collins

COUNTY: Cook

CODE: 17

CODE: 031

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	art studios	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Medinah Temple Association

STREET AND NUMBER: 600 N. Wabash Av.

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cook County Recorder of Deeds, County building

STREET AND NUMBER: Washington & Clark Sts.

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Gleasoner House, Historic Sites Survey Office

STREET AND NUMBER: 1800 S. Prairie Av.

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois

COUNTY: Cook

FOR NP USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

## 7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

CONDITION

(Check One)

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION:

The Tree Studio building complex is a group of three structures comprised of the original Tree Studio (1894) and two adjoining structures (1912-13) known as the Ontario and Ohio street Annexes.

The Tree Studio building, 218' x 77', is a two-story steel-framed structure situated on the east side of State street running the length of the block from Ohio on the south to Ontario on the north. The two annexes are situated on the north and south ends of the original Studio building, facing Ohio and Ontario and running in an easterly direction for another 70', forming a U-shaped grouping with courtyard.

The State street facade (west) of the Tree Studio is composed of a full length cast iron arcade at ground level behind which are spaces for small shops and stores. The second story is covered in a buff colored Roman brick with large windows for artist's studios. Each corner section is three stories high encompassing two-story oriel windows providing light to the largest of the art studio spaces. Decorative features include numerous dormers projecting into the roofline, chimneys with clay pots, and a cast iron frieze just below the roof soffit.

There are two main entries for studio tenants. One on the Ohio st. side, the other on Ontario, both providing access to the courtyard, the second floor stairway, and into the adjacent Annexes to the east. The arched entries are decorated with dressed and carved Bedford and Lemont limestone. On either side of the doorway, placed amongst the carved foliate ornamentation, are two stone faces which appear to be likenesses of Mr. & Mrs. Lambert Tree.

The courtyard facade is buff colored common brick with deep set windows grouped in pairs with limestone sills. First floor studios have projecting entrances making possible the inclusion of skylights. The generally simple and unadorned facade looks upon a grassed courtyard with winding brick walkways, flower gardens and a central fountain.

First floor studios, located along the east half of the building, have 14' high ceilings and a small balconied sleeping area. Second floor studios, situated along the west half of a long north-south corridor, have 12' high ceilings and wood burning fireplaces. Living area for these studios is along the east half of the hallway. All interior spaces are plastered, simple, and unadorned.

The Ontario and Ohio street Annexes are both two-story steel-framed structures with mansard style roofs. Both are faced with a dark brown brick, having large glass areas on the north side for studio lighting. Each building contains four large art studios; the Ohio Annex each having one bedroom, the Ontario Annex being slightly larger with two bedroom apartments on a mezzanine level.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1894 1912 1913

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tree Studio building and Annexes erected to provide low cost housing and studio space for artists deserves recognition as one of the more unusual building types in Chicago. As the residence and studio of such well-known local artists as the sculptor Emil Zettler, the building is of particular historic interest. The social and humanitarian aims of its benefactor, Lambert Tree, are also memorialized by the buildings.

Architecturally the buildings are of interest because of the unusual planning involved in providing space for studios and living quarters, as well as shops and courtyard. The older building is a good example of an eastern Queen Anne more closely related to English sources than most local work. As a bold design without parallel in Chicago, reflecting early modern architecture in Vienna, the Ontario Annex is of special importance architecturally.

P.M.S.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE Illinois	
COUNTY Cook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Tree Studios

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

HISTORY:

The original Studio building was designed in 1894 by the architectural firm of Parfitt Bros. of Brooklyn, N.Y., Hill & Woltersdorf of Chicago, Associate Architects. The style is that of late Queen Anne with elements of Classical detailing. The building was constructed and named for Lambert Tree, noted civic and political figure in Chicago, part of whose original estate was used for the site. Tree had lived on the east portion of the block-size lot until his mansion was destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871.

The Ohio and Ontario street Annexes were designed entirely by the firm of Hill & Woltersdorf in 1912 and 1913 respectively. Although built for the Tree Trust (Tree died in 1910) it is possible that some arrangements to build the additions had been instituted prior to Tree's death.

The Ohio St. Annex is stylistically eclectic, being a mixture of late Queen Anne and Classic details, composed of deep set window groupings, with relief and corbelled brickwork.

The Ontario Annex is much stronger in style as an adaptation of Viennese Successionist architecture. The facade is decorated with a large terra cotta mezzo-rilievo sculpture by Michael Thomas Murphy, Irish born, schooled at the Royal College of Art, London, specializing in portrait and figure relief sculpture. (commissions involving Chicago area personages include busts of the Most Rev. George W. Mundelein and Dr. John W. Murphy). Murphy maintained a studio in the Tree building beginning in 1912, one year prior to the construction of the Ontario Annex.

Both Annexes have small private entries on their east ends.

Originally the property was controlled by a legal Trust set up by Lambert Tree to provide "artist only" quarters at moderate rentals. This trust remained in force until 1959 when it was finally broken by a descendant of Tree and the property sold to the Medinah Temple Association which already owned the east half of the block. Prior to 1959 the Studio buildings were run with little or no profit, the bulk of the rental income used for taxes and upkeep. Following purchase of the entire block, including the Tree Studio complex, the Temple Assoc. built a music practice hall on the west side of the existing Medinah Temple to the east. This three-story windowless brick structure involves the east half of the former large courtyard but does not adjoin any of the original studio buildings. This is the only intrusion into the original plan. The Studio buildings remain unchanged from their original construction.

Although the "artist only" clause of the trust is no longer valid, the buildings maintain a very high proportion of artist residents.

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Tree Studios

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

WINDY CITY, Pa. 2

According to long time studio residents (some as long as 50 years) Tree built the structures for two reasons: (1) that he was sympathetic to their generally meager financial situation and wished to provide them with inexpensive housing and studio space in a pleasant surroundings, (2) that he needed a tax break on his extensive property holdings following the depressed financial period of 1893-94. (Tree's wife was also an amateur artist)

Lambert Tree was born in Washington, D.C. in 1832 from a family whose forebearers had distinguished themselves in the Continental Army. Tree studied law at the University of Virginia and was admitted to the bar in 1855, shortly thereafter coming to Chicago. In 1864 he was chosen president of the Law Institute and in 1870 elected a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, serving in this capacity until 1875. Among the more notable civic and public highlights of Tree's life are: U.S. Minister to Belgium and Russia, 1885-89; U.S. Member of the International Monetary Conference at Washington, 1891; President of the Illinois State Historical Library, 1893-96; Life Trustee of the Newberry Library; Trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago; 2nd vice-president of the Chicago Historical Society.

Long a devotee of the arts, Tree donated two large bronze statues to the people of Chicago during his lifetime, both of which are now located in the Lincoln Park area. (statue of LaSalle by de Lalaine, and Sioux Indian on horseback entitled "Signal of Peace" by C.E. Dallin)

In his role of civic booster Tree and five-time Chicago Mayor Carter Harrison established a small trust fund in 1885 to purchase gold medals to be awarded annually to police and fireman for acts of heroism. Named after these men on alternate years, the medals are still given today as the highest honor awarded by the City of Chicago.

Parfitt Bro. Architects: Little is known of the firm outside of the following; Henry D. Parfitt, oldest of three brothers, came to the United States from England in 1863 and gradually built up a large architectural practice in Brooklyn over the next 20 years. His brother Albert joined in partnership in 1882 with the third brother Walter coming into the firm shortly thereafter. Henry Parfitt died in June of 1882, consequently the firm consisted of the brothers Albert and Walter at the time the Tree Studio building was designed.

Hill & Woltersdorf, Architects: This firm was an outgrowth of the firm of Bauer & Hill which began in 1881 in Chicago. With Bauer's retirement in 1894, Hill took in young Arthur F. Woltersdorf who had only recently completed his schooling and study abroad. The partnership lasted until Hill's retirement in 1914. Woltersdorf eventually became known as Chicago's literary architect because of his numerous writings and editorial work for various architectural chapter publications.

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Tree Studios

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

HISTORY CAMP Pg. 3

Some of the more notable artisans who have lived at the Tree Studios:

Sculptor Emil Kettler, specialized in architectural work. Also was professor & head of the School of Industrial Art, Art Inst. Chicago.

Painters: Frederic Tellander, Glenn C. Sheffer, Rowena Fry, Macena Barton, Anna Lynch (miniaturist), Richard Florsheim, Oliver Dennett Grover, Edgar Cameron.

Illustrator: James Allen St. John, illustrator for all of Edgar Rice Burroughs "Tarzan" series.

T.G.Y.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interviews with long time residents.  
 National Reference Library, Chicago Ill. Coll.  
 Chicago Fire Dept., Public Information  
 Northern Architect Mag., 120, (Rev. 1914)  
 Philadelphia Record Mag., (Mar. 1922)  
 Map of Illinois-Portraits, Halliday Witherspoon, (1912)  
 Original plans, microfilm record, Bureau Arch. Library, Art. Inst. Chgo.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN 1/4 ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			0			41	53	34	87	37	39
NE	0			0								
SE	0			0								
SW	0			0								

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Thomas G. Yanul, Field Surveyor & Paul G. Sprague, Director

ORGANIZATION: Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE: Aug. 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 1500 S. Prairie Av.

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago

STATE: Illinois

CODE: 17

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name:

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 10/1/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered DEC 16 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tree Studio Building, Ohio & Ontario Street Annexes	Chicago Cook County

**COPY OF SUPERSEDEDENTIAL NOTIFICATION**

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy  
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, III  
Hon. Cardiss Collins



ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

CK-H-74

✓ 200801

1. Name of Site:

Common

Historic Tree Studio Building

2. Location:

Street and Number 4 East Ohio

Township

Section

City or Town Chicago

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

County Cook

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

Integrity (check one)

District  Building  
 Site  Structure

Altered  Unaltered  
 Moved  Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

Private  
 Public

Occupied  
 Unoccupied  
 Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes  Restricted  Unrestricted  No

Present Use (check one or more)

Agricultural  Industrial  Religious  
 Commercial  Military  Scientific  
 Educational  Museum  Transportation  
 Entertainment  Park  Other  
 Government  Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description: block long, 2-story commercial bldg.

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  
 Ruins  Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?  Yes ?  No

ART, ARCHITECTURE

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archaeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archaeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: 1894 & 1912-13

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. Artists studios built by Chicago art patron Lambert Tree. National Register

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6/24/75

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being complete. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

National Register material

